What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:

providing wavelet coefficients that indicate an image;

representing each wavelet coefficient as a collection of ordered bits; and

coding the bits of each order to indicate zerotree roots that are associated with the order.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of coding the bits comprises:

determining which of the bits indicate zeros; and

classifying each zero as either an isolated zero or a zerotree root.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein some of the wavelet coefficients are descendants of some of the other wavelet coefficients, and wherein the act of determining comprises:

traversing a descendant tree from a bit associated with one of said some of the wavelet coefficients to bits associated with said other wavelet coefficients to locate the zerotree roots.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of providing comprises:

producing different levels of the code, each level being associated with a different resolution of the image.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the levels that are associated with lower resolution are associated with higher orders.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of providing wavelet coefficients comprises:

providing intensity level coefficients that indicate pixel intensities of the image; and

transforming the intensity level coefficients into wavelet subbands.

7. An article comprising a storage medium readable by a processor-based system, the storage medium storing instructions to cause a processor to:

provide wavelet coefficients that indicate an image,

represent each wavelet coefficient as a collection of ordered bits, and

code the bits of each order to indicate zerotree roots that are associated with the order.

8. The article of claim 7, the storage medium comprising instructions to cause the processor to:

determine which of the bits indicate zeros, and

classify each zero as either an isolated zero or a zerotree root.

9. The article of claim 8, wherein some of the wavelet coefficients are descendants of some of the other wavelet coefficients, the storage medium comprising instruction to cause the processor to:

traverse a descendant tree from a bit associated with one of said some of the wavelet coefficients to bits associated with said other wavelet coefficients to locate the zerotree roots.

10. The article of claim 7, the storage medium comprising instructions to cause the processor to:

produce different levels of the code, each level being associated with a different resolution of the image.

11. The article of claim 10, wherein the levels that are associated with lower resolutions are associated with higher orders.

12. A computer system comprising:

a processor; and

a memory storing a program to cause the processor to:

provide wavelet coefficients that indicate an image,

represent each wavelet coefficient as a collection of ordered bits, and

code the bits of each order to indicate zerotree roots that are associated with the order.

13. The computer system of claim 12, wherein the program causes the processor to code the bits by determining which of the bits indicate zeros and classifying each zero as either an isolated zero or a zerotree root.

14. The computer system of claim 13, wherein some of the wavelet coefficients are descendants of some of the other wavelet coefficients, and wherein the processor determines which of the bits are zeros by traversing a descendant tree from a bit associated with one of said some of the wavelet coefficients to bits associated with said other wavelet coefficients to locate the zerotree root.

15. The computer system of claim 12, wherein the program causes the processor to provide the wavelet coefficients by producing different levels of the code, each level being associated with a different resolution of the image.